

## Mission / Goals / Objectives

The Erie County Forest Management Plan has been constructed around **three basic principles**. The first principle is that any data collection or inventory planning adhere to the highest standards. The second is that the recommendations resulting from the analysis be based on sound biological, ecological, economical, recreational and educational considerations. And lastly, that relationships formed throughout the planning process will enhance and strengthen the benefits to residents and taxpayers in Erie County.

**The mission** was laid out on November 15, 1927, when the Erie County Board of Supervisors created the Erie County Bureau of Forestry. The primary function of the bureau was to increase the public revenues from the sale of forest products, as well as encourage the enhancement and protection of wildlife and water supplies for the people of this county.



*Timber from Erie County Forest was used to rehabilitate the Ellicott Creek Park Casino.*

**The goal** is to create healthier and sustainable County Forests for the 21st Century, using science, Best Management Practices (BMPs)\*, and common sense. Managing Erie County's 13 Forest Lots has tremendous benefits for Erie County residents. The Bureau of Forestry will create/enhance multi-use opportunities with a unique blend of recreation, watershed protection, wildlife habitat enhancements, educational opportunities and sound economics (all working in unity toward the goal of sustainable forests). While much has been done in recent years, it will take another three to four years to rebuild the Forestry Bureau. Establishing good forestry principles through partnerships, and practicing proper stewardship of the County's forestry resources will have lasting benefits for generations to come.

**The objectives** of the Erie County Forest Management Plan include creating educational and economic opportunities for taxpayers, community groups, and educators; utilizing the Woodlands Environmental Educational Center and certain Lots for scientific experiments in ecology and forestry; putting forest products to good use in County parks, departments, and for public projects; reducing taxes through profits from sales of lumber products; providing for water resources protection, wildlife habitat enhancement and fire protection; and encouraging/enhancing recreational use.

\* According to New York State's Soil and Water Conservation District Law, Section 3, a Best Management Practice "... means methods, measures or practices determined to be the most practical and effective in preventing or reducing the impact of pollutants generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality standards established pursuant to section 17-0301 of the Environmental Conservation Law.